Proposals for Bringing Down the Prices of Life Saving Drugs

3023. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to bring down the prices of life saving drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps being proposed to be taken in this regard, and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to provide laboratory testing facilities in small cities and towns to ensure the quality of the drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Government haa announced measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of pharmaceutical industry in December, 1986. These measures aimed at ensuring abundant availability of gooa quality of essential medicine at reasonable prices. Details of the measures have already been circulated to the Hon'ble Members in the past and copies of the same are available in the Parliament Library.

Consumption of Plastic in India

3024. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita consumption of plastic in India and in what manner it compares with the consumption in developed countries;

(b) what steps are being taken to encourage greater use of plastic in the country with a view to reducing the requirement of timber and other natural resources which have a direct impact on ecology;

(c) whether the C.S.I.R. has formulated any research and development programmes to develop low cost alternative material using plastic; and

(a) if so, what are the the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Against per capita world consumption of plastics of about 13 kgs./year, the per capita consumption in India is about 0.67 kgs/year.

(b) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) is establishing regional centres to encourage use of plastics, offer testing facilities, training of manpower and consultancy services. Polymer manufacturers like IPCL, PIL etc are engaged in developing new plastic products that serve as substitutes for wood. IPCL has undertaken the development of crate for apples based on Polypropylene Encouragement is given to the industry to go in for the manufacture of PVC based door frames and window frames, that are traditionally based on wood. A National Committee has been set up to promote increased use of plastics in water management and agriculture.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Regional Research Laboratories of C.S.I.R. have formulated a coordinated R&D programme to develop low cost/alternative building material using plastic. Their main aim is for:

(i) Development of polymer concrete for thermal insulation cum water proofing treatment of Roofs

(ii) Development of plastics composites panels for partition cladding flush doors, etc.

(iii) Development of cost effective better performing polymer based water proof coating adhesives and sealants.